

Review

1. To appreciate the work entrusted to us and do it heartily as unto the Lord
2. To look at life not just as a matter of time and chance, but to trust in God's sovereign hands
3. To face the evil times of trouble with faith in God through prayer

The worth of wisdom

1. The appreciation of wisdom

"This wisdom I have also seen under the sun, and it seemed great to me." Ecc 9:13

- a) In this section, Solomon is appreciating the worth of wisdom
- b) These thoughts came from his observation of life
- c) He was trying to evaluate the place of wisdom in the real world

2. The use of wisdom in deliverance

a) The incident of a little city

"There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it." Ecc 9:14

- i) A great king came to conquer the little city
- ii) He laid siege to the city

b) Wisdom brought about deliverance

"Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city." Ecc 9:15

- i) No one could come up with a solution except for a poor, wise man
- ii) This poor wise man presented a solution to the king of the little city

c) Yet the sad reality was that the path of wisdom is thankless

"Yet no one remembered that same poor man. Then I said: "Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard." Ecc 9:15, 16

- i) This poor wise man did so much for the city
- ii) But no one remembered him

3. Wisdom is to be seen as of greater worth than other things

"Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good." Eccl 9:17-18

- a) Wisdom is better than strength
- b) A soft word of wisdom is better than a loud shout of a foolish ruler
- c) Wisdom is better than weapons of war
- d) Yet one sinner can undo the good done

A more spiritual aspect of deliverance

1. There are other considerations about deliverance that we need to bear in mind

2. The deliverance of God

"The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord." Prov 21:31

3. Psalm 33:16-18

"No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."

Lessons learned

1. Appreciate the great worth of wisdom

- a) Greater than strength
- b) Greater than a loud foolish ruler
- c) Greater than weapons

2. Look to wisdom that can deliver us from the difficulties of life

3. Respond by pursuing the path of wisdom, even if it is thankless

4. Affirm our faith in the Lord's deliverance.